Size: 36,322 acres
Mission: Receive, store, and maintain conventional ammunition, as necessary to support demilitarization of conventional ammunition and receive, store, maintain, and issue operational project stocks and general supplies
HRS Score: NA
IAG Status: Two-party Federal Facility Agreement signed in May 1991
Contaminants: Petroleum products, solvents, and explosives
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $33.6 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $30.0 million (FY2035)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY2000
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for Non-BRAC Sites: FY2006

Herlong, California

Restoration Background

In 1995, the BRAC Commission recommended realignment of Sierra Army Depot by reducing its conventional ammunition mission to a level sufficient to support conventional ammunition demilitarization, and by retaining it as an enclave for the Operational Project Stocks mission and the static storage of ores. Approximately 4,537 acres was identified as excess. Environmental contamination at the depot originated from burn trenches, explosives leaching beds, landfills, burial sites, spill sites, sewage lines, underground storage tanks, sumps, and fire training areas. Primary contaminants in soil and groundwater include trichloroethene (TCE), petroleum products, and explosives. Environmental investigations identified 23 sites; 12 sites required no further action.

The installation partnered with state regulatory agencies to set up a geographic information system (GIS) at the installation. It also developed a cooperative program with the University of Nevada-Reno. Results of graduate student studies have refined knowledge of the aquifer in Honey Lake Valley. This information is being used and shared with the community to locate a higher quality, more dependable source of potable water.

Restoration activities in FY95 included a bioventing project at the active fire training area and signature on a Record of Decision (ROD) for nine sites. RODs for seven sites specified use of natural attenuation and degradation (NAD) for both explosives and TCE in groundwater. Selection of this remedy marked the first time that U.S. regulators had allowed the use of natural attenuation (NA) as an innovative technology for remediating explosive products and TCE in groundwater. The Army completed a design implementing composting for treatment of soil contaminated with explosives.

In FY96, the installation commander formed a BRAC cleanup team (BCT), which published Version 1 of a BRAC Cleanup Plan (BCP). The Army developed the design concept for preventing off-post migration of a TCE-contaminated groundwater plume. The installation updated its community relations plan and used the plan to establish a Restoration Advisory Board in FY97. The Army developed an early warning groundwater transducer program to monitor petroleum- and TCE-containing plumes near the potable water supply network. By the end of FY96, RODs had addressed 17 of Sierra's 23 sites. Work also began on the BRAC NEPA document.

In FY97, the Army completed an Environmental Baseline Survey and identified 3,537 acres as CERFA-clean. In addition, a report of availability and an Environmental Condition of Property (ECP) were completed for the BRAC cantonment parcel. The Army used a NEPA Categorical Exclusion to transfer some BRAC property. Sierra Army Depot was the first BRAC 95 installation to transfer property. Version 2 of the BCP was completed.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The depot used contaminated soil removed from the BRAC property Rifle Range to resurface the range impact berm at an active range on the retained parcel. By collecting data in the field during the BRAC berm removal and the retained-range berm improvement, the installation reduced cleanup time and costs. The BRAC range was remediated and closed.

The installation also completed a Removal Action for the BRAC construction debris area to remove hazards and remediate the site. An Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis project design was completed for the BRAC unexploded ordnance (UXO) areas. If UXO is identified on the site, further work may be required.

Preliminary screening at a contaminated soil area indicated that no further action would be required at the site. The installation also completed reviews of three ECOPs. The properties covered by the ECOPs are available for transfer. The installation has two approved RODs with NA of groundwater identified as the preferred remedy. The Army anticipates that it will propose two or more NA RODs in the future. RODs were signed for the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) site. The selected remedy includes active bioventing of soil with a hot-spot removal, and NA for groundwater. The installation completed soil removals to close two other sites.

The installation worked successfully to meet its project schedule. Efforts to emphasize risk-based decisions have been slowed by an increased exchange of position papers between the Army and state regulators. The BCT reviewed all ECOPs. The installation has conducted site tours and published newsletters about the sites. The Army Environmental Center briefed the RAB about the Technical Assistance Public Participation (TAPP).

Plan of Action

- Complete three BRAC property transfers in FY99
- Remove all depleted uranium (DU) munitions in FY99
- Complete final two RI reports in FY99
- Close out two active restoration operations in FY99
- Complete DU closeout report in FY00
- Complete 5-year report on NA at TNT area in FY00
- Install and begin operating the DRMO remediation system and complete one BRAC property transfer in FY00

Sites Achieving RIP or RC Per Fiscal Year